GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1741
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Indian Cultural Centres Abroad
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Indian Cultural Centre in different countries;

(b) if so, the name of the countries along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote Indian culture in different parts of the world;

(c) whether the Government has decided to set up an Indian Cultural Centre in Israel also;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives thereto; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring up both countries closer culturally?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes.

(b) ICCR has 36 Indian Cultural Centres and one Sub-Centre (list attached). ICCR has plans to establish new Indian Cultural Centres in Washington and Paris. For these new Centres, the properties are being renovated for establishing Centres.

Cultural Centres overseas are ICCR's important arms, which play significant role in promotion of India's soft power strength through its variety of activities like facilitating teaching of Indian dance, music, yoga, Hindi etc., organizing cultural performances, film screening, lectures, talks, Seminars & Conferences on themes related to India including workshops/interactions on various streams of Indian dance and music and organizing Festivals of India. Activities are organized in the capital and other cities with the help of involvement of local community and Indian Diaspora.

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) During the recent visit of Prime Minister of India to Israel, announcement for the opening of Indian Cultural Centre in Israel was made. Modalities for opening and running of the Centre will be worked out by ICCR in consultation with the Mission in Tel Aviv. In 2017-18 ICCR organized a Festival of India in Israel. Celebrations of IDY were organized on grand scale. ICCR has Chair of Indian Studies at the Tel Aviv University for promotion of Indian studies. India and Israel share a long standing relationship on the cultural and people to people front. Opening a Cultural Centre will further enhance relationship on this front.